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Andrew M. Walkover

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Andrew M. Walkover

1949-1988

HIS TEACHERS REMEMBER . . .

I knew Andy Walkover best as a student. I met him first in my evidence class at the University of Michigan. He was the "sixties type" in the left rear corner who, especially at first, was too often absent but had the most interesting things to say when he came to class. I did not realize it at the time, but Andy was just beginning to discover his vocation.

Andy was a rare law student. He was interested in many things, but he would not let others set the agenda for his interests; in particular, he would not let an institution like a law school or impersonal forces like peer norms tell him what was or was not worthy of his attention. Nor was he driven by grades or by the fear that if he didn't learn certain things well he would be unable to succeed in practice. Instead he was driven by ideas; he loved to pursue them in reading and conversation.

In Andy's first year either the ideas or, more likely, the large classes in which he encountered them, did little to excite his interest. He began his second year wondering if law school was worth finishing. He ended that year with a sense of law as a potentially rich intellectual endeavor. By his third year, when he was outshining sociology graduate students as one of the stars of my Sociology of Law seminar, Andy was in full bloom. He had more ideas than he could pursue, and could envision a career pursuing them. By that time there was also an Andy Walkover fan club among the faculty, for several of us had identified Andy as one of the few students whom we could envision as a colleague. But Andy was still himself; there were still classes he did not wish to pursue deeply, and if a class wasn't worth pursuing deeply, it was, for Andy, hardly worth pursuing at all. Thus he graduated with an undistinguished gradepoint average but as one of the best and most interesting students to have come from this school.

I didn't hear often from Andy after he left Michigan, and I only saw him once, but I knew he had been right when he

decided to become a teacher. He was genuinely happy at Puget Sound, for he spoke warmly of both life in Tacoma and life at the law school. I thought that as Andy's career developed we would have many more occasions to chat. Now that he is gone, I regret that neither of us had special reason to search out the other. Legal scholarship will never see the full flowering of the potential that was there. I am grieved because a special person—and a student who became a friend—is gone.

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